

Utility Patent Application  
Of  
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For

**TITLE: TRIATHLONBAG II**

**FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH**

Not applicable.

**SEQUENCE LISTING OR PROGRAM**

Not applicable.

**BACKGROUND-FIELD OF INVENTION**

This invention relates to sports bags, specifically sports bags used in triathlons.

**BACKGROUND-DESCRIPTION OF PRIOR ART**

Traditionally, athletes used sports bags simply to transport sports equipment and clothing; therefore, their utility lied in their ability to move the greatest amount of equipment with the least effort, and the bag was never an active part of the sport, playing a direct role in the athlete's performance.

A triathlon is a timed, non-stop sequence of swimming, running, and cycling events, each having its own equipment. Inherent in a triathlon are two transitions, where the triathlete completes one event and begins another. Minimizing transition times is a goal of every triathlete; therefore, a sports bag that can transport, segregate, display, and accessibly-organize triathlon gear reduces transition time, thereby providing utility to every triathlete who uses such bag.

Several patents have issued for backpack-type devices, none of which claim interior storage features necessary to quickly segregate, identify, and retrieve sports equipment. Rohrbach, patent D.388,248 (1997); Sakelliou, patent D.420,792 (2000); Farris, patent 5,676,293 (1997); McDermott, patent 5,743,447 (1998); and Paul et al, patent 6, 138,881 (2000).

Some patents have issued for carrying cases with a variety of internal storage compartments, but the utility of such devices were to segregate and display tools or sample products. They are not backpacks, have no external storage that displays items clearly, and do not have the ability to segregate wet and dry items. Shaw, patent 5,423,404 (1995); Cirigliano, patent 5,653,337 (1997); and Allen patent 5,845,780 (1998).

Other patents have issued for sports-specific bags, none of which were for triathlon equipment. Gerch, patent 4,805,748 (1989) teaches a duffel bag with a racket pocket; Peng, patent 5,826,771 (1998) teaches a backpack for transporting in line skates; Fournier, WO 98/52439 (1998) teaches a duffel bag with interior mesh pockets for transporting and drying hockey equipment, but Fournier does not segregate wet and dry items, is not a backpack, and has no external storage.

### **Objects and Advantages**

The subject invention may be transported as either a duffel bag or a backpack and has exterior and interior mesh storage areas to segregate wet and dry items, as well as a removable mesh bag. The various sizes and locations of the meshed storage areas are designed to hold all types of triathlon gear, ranging from a large full-body wet suit to small goggles and allow for rapid identification and removal of items. The subject invention, when fully opened, provides full display of the interior contents and a removable mesh bag and is small enough to fit in the triathlete's designated transition area. The exterior of the invention has meshed storage areas to promote storage and drying of wet items.

### **SUMMARY**

In accordance with the present invention, a convertible duffel bag/backpack comprises a water-resistant shell with interior, exterior, and removable mesh storage areas.

### **DRAWINGS**

#### **Brief Description Of Drawings**

FIG.1A is a front view of my invention when not secured by straps.

FIG.1B is a front view of my invention when secured by straps.

FIG.2 is a bottom view of my invention.

FIG.3 is a side view of my invention.

FIG.4 is a rear view of my invention.

FIG.5 is an interior view of my invention in the fully-open position.

FIG.6 is a view of a collapsible bag.

### **Reference Numerals In Drawings**

- |           |                                  |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| <b>1</b>  | Front exterior mesh bag          |
| <b>2</b>  | Stabilizer                       |
| <b>3</b>  | Front exterior left mesh pocket  |
| <b>4</b>  | Front exterior right mesh pocket |
| <b>5</b>  | Front exterior left pocket       |
| <b>6</b>  | Front exterior right pocket      |
| <b>7</b>  | Top female strap connector       |
| <b>8</b>  | Top male strap connector         |
| <b>9</b>  | Left strap                       |
| <b>10</b> | Right strap                      |
| <b>11</b> | Base                             |
| <b>12</b> | Right shoulder strap             |
| <b>13</b> | Left shoulder strap              |
| <b>14</b> | Right waist strap                |
| <b>15</b> | Left waist strap                 |
| <b>16</b> | Top closure device               |
| <b>17</b> | Small interior mesh pocket       |
| <b>18</b> | Left interior mesh pocket        |
| <b>19</b> | Right interior mesh pocket       |
| <b>20</b> | Mesh cylinder                    |
| <b>21</b> | Pouch                            |

## **DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

### **Preferred Embodiment**

A preferred embodiment of the present invention is illustrated in FIGS 1-6. The Triathlonbag II has an ovular base **11** of a flexible water resistant material, such as urethane. Communicating with said base **11** is a front shell of a water resistant material, such as nylon opposite a front exterior mesh bag **1**, front exterior left mesh pocket **3**, front exterior right mesh pocket **4**, front exterior left pocket **5**, and front exterior right pocket **6** as depicted in FIG 1A. Said front exterior left pocket **5** and front exterior right pocket **6** may be sealed by waterproof closure devices, such as zippers. In the preferred embodiment, the invention may be secured by connecting a stabilizer **2** to the front shell by joining a top female strap connector **7** to a male strap connector **8** and securing left strap **9** and right strap **10** as shown in FIG 1B.

Also communicating with said base **11** is a rear shell of flexible water resistant material, such as nylon. Attached to the exterior of the rear shell are a right shoulder strap **12** and a left shoulder strap **13**. Also attached to the exterior of the rear shell and perpendicular to the right shoulder strap **12** and left shoulder strap **13** are a right waist strap **14** and a left waist strap **15** as depicted in FIGS 2,4.

Said front shell communicates with said rear shell by a top closure device **16**, such as a zipper, to form a backpack as shown in FIG 3.

A small interior mesh pocket **17** is secured on three sides to the interior of the front shell. One side of a left interior mesh pocket **18** and one side of a right interior mesh pocket **19** are each secured to the interior of the rear shell such that they may fold outward when the invention is in an open position as depicted in FIG 5.

Depicted in FIG 6 is a collapsible bag comprised of a pouch **21** of flexible water resistant material, such as nylon, and a mesh cylinder **20**. The mesh cylinder **20** is connected to the open end of the pouch **21** and may be closed with a draw string as depicted in FIG 5. The collapsible bag is attached to the interior of the rear shell between the left interior mesh pocket **18** and right interior mesh pocket **19** by an adhesive material that allows the collapsible bag to be easily removed and re-secured many times.

## **Operation**

The manner of using the Triathlonbag II is similar to that for backpacks; namely to store and transport objects. However, in addition, the Triathlonbag II may be used to segregate wet items from dry items and, in its open position, the entire contents of the interior are visible. Extensive use of closure devices and straps ensure that the contents of the Triathlonbag II remain secure when the Triathlonbag II is being used. Unique features of Triathlonbag II are the fold out left and right interior mesh pockets **18,19** and the removable collapsible bag as depicted in FIGS 5,6.